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The Public Security Ministry (0361/1344/6752)

1. The Public Security Ministry, also referred to as the Central Public Security Headquarters (0022/1135/0361/1344/6752), is in Peiping and includes the following departments:
 - a. The Secretariat (4434/2579/5710), under which functions an Administrative Department (5887/2398/5710).
 - b. Foreign Affairs Department (1120/0057/5710).
 - c. Investigation and Research Department (6148/2686/4282/4496/5710).
 - d. Peiping Municipality Public Security Office (0554/0079/0361/1344/1444).

There are other departments.

Public Security Headquarters in Administrative Areas (1129/5887/2398/0575/0361/1344/6752)

2. The administrative areas of East China, Central and South China, North China, Northwest China, Southwest China and Northeast China have a public security

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- 2 -

headquarters under the control of the Ministry, but responsible also to the Military and Administrative Committee and to the Party Committee of the area. The Inner Mongolian Autonomous Area has a public security department (0361/1344/1689) under the North China Public Security Headquarters.

3. Each public security headquarters is divided into the following:

- a. Secretariat (4434/2579/4430).
- b. Administrative Section (5887/2398/4430).
- c. Foreign Affairs Section (1120/0057/4430).

There are other sections.

Provincial Public Security Departments (4164/0361/1344/1689)

4. The provincial public security departments are divided into the following:

- a. Secretariat (4434/2579/5710).
- b. Administrative Section (5887/2398/5710).
- c. Public Security Section:
Issues permits for travel or removal, controls opium traffic and has special supervision of public places and institutions, such as tea houses and schools.
- d. Investigation and Research Section (6148/4282/5710).
- e. Foreign Affairs Section (1120/0057/5710);
Supervises all foreigners in the province.
- f. Public Security Force (0361/1344/4920/7130); at this level, organized as a column or regiment.
- g. Corrective Labor Section.¹
- h. In some cases there is also a prison section (4148/3739/4430).

The above organization is by no means standard in all provinces. According to circumstances, other sections may be included in addition to the minimum. The Foreign Affairs Section does not exist normally below this level. At the hsien level, its work is absorbed by the Public Security Division.

Special Administrative Area Public Security Offices (4113/0575/0361/1344/5710).

5. Public security offices in special administrative areas, which are generally made up of five to eight hsien, are organized as follows:

- a. Secretariat (4434/2579/4430).
- b. Administrative Section (5887/2398/4430).
- c. Investigation and Research Section (6148/4282/4430)
- d. Corrective Labor Section (0525/2395/4430).
- e. Public Security Force (0361/1344/1129/7130).

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- 3 -

Hsien Public Security Bureaus (4905/0361/1344/1444)

6. A typical organization at hsien level is as follows:

- a. Public Security Division (3112/0361/5140). Within the Public Security Bureau itself, the Security Division has a head and an assistant head. Their office staff consists of from five to seven persons. The Security Division is divided into the Census and Registration offices (2073/4694) and the People's Police (0086/3046/6226/1390).
 - (1) The number of personnel in the Census office is not fixed, but is generally about five persons. These coordinate the activities of the census groups, which consist of three persons each, who are responsible for the census and registration of the 500 or so members of the population of each rural area (1129/6966).
 - (2) The People's Police, which are not found above hsien level, are never very numerous, as a great deal of what would normally be police work is in the hands of the various security groups. In one hsien the total complement of people's police is one chief and 24 men. Their duties include regulation of traffic, town sanitation, and supervision of the "thought" of the "special population" (3676/4467/0086/0656), i.e., reactionaries, returned overseas Chinese, foreigners, former Kuomintang members, and other people viewed with suspicion by the Party. Their work in no way duplicates or overlaps that of the Public Security Forces.
- b. Secretariat (4434/2579/5140). This generally has a staff of three persons to handle the offices of Seal Keeper, Accounts, Correspondence, and Files. The secretariat is responsible for liaison with the Special Administrative Area Public Security Office and the Provincial Public Security Department. It writes up the weekly reports and the monthly general reports which are submitted to the bureau chief and then forwarded to the special administrative area public security office.
- c. Corrective Labor Division (0525/2395/5140). This is divided into Large Units (1129/7130), Medium Units (0022/7130), and Branch Units (0433/7130). The size and number of personnel naturally depend on the number of criminals.
- d. Public Security Force (0361/1344/0022/7130). This generally consists of from 120 to 150 men, chosen on the recommendation of Party members, or Youth Corps members, or as the result of competitive examinations open to all. They are trained at police schools, of which there is at least one in every province. The commander and the guidance officer (2172/1418/0765), or political commissar, are both Party members. The guidance officer works in conjunction with three cultural instructors (2429/0553/2403/0765) who are generally but not necessarily Party members. He has more authority than the commander, and it is he who conducts liaison with local Party organizations and instructs the force through its commander to take any security or punitive action he deems necessary. Duties of the force include the protection of Party organizations, installations and important personalities, the arrest and supervision of political criminals, and the maintenance of public order. They are responsible for the guarding of dockyards and important industrial installations. However, their duties do not include the guarding of railways, which is the responsibility of the Railway Police Bureau. The force is divided into three platoons, each of which is further divided into three sections. Each platoon commander and section commander is supposed to be armed with a heavy or light machine-gun, but in one hsien there were only two heavy machine-guns and five light machine-guns for the whole force. No policy to develop public security troops into combat forces is known.

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- 4 -

e. Investigation and Research Division (6148/4282/5140). This is the most vital part of the Public Security Bureau and the most vital component of the public security organization at all levels. Every office member must be a Party member. There is a chief and a deputy chief, with a staff of about five persons, whose functions are as follows:

- (1) Office Security, generally in the hands of one person who is responsible to the chief of the Division.
- (2) Files and Statistics, in the hands of one or two members of the staff. Material kept in the files and statistics on such matters as the progress of census and registration, repression of Kuomintang elements and reactionaries, and personnel records, are available to the secretariat for the weekly and monthly reports mentioned above.
- (3) Intelligence (or Information) (1906/1032) is in the hands of one official who handles agents in all walks of public life. These are found in hotels, restaurants, factories and public markets.²
- (4) Judiciary (1399/6061) and Investigation (0269/2686) units are sometimes in the hands of one man alone. These people are concerned strictly with investigating the activities of political suspects, basing their work largely on information supplied by the agents run by the intelligence official above. They can order the arrest of suspects whom they interrogate, and pass judgment. They are then responsible for wording the formal accusation and verdict for publication after the trial and occasionally for arranging public trials, when the judiciary unit correlates information on the accused, which is submitted to the People's Court (0086/3046/3127/1656) via the local Party Committee secretary.

50X1-HUM

Public Security Organizations within the District Governments (0575/2398/1650)

7. Within the district government there is a public security staff consisting of two persons only, a senior and a junior. [] these two members were known as public security auxiliaries. They are responsible to the secretariat of the hsien public security bureaus and to the district Party committees, and work in collaboration with the hsien public security force.
8. In each hsiang (6763) (village group), there is a public security staff generally consisting of one Party member or Youth Corps member. Responsible to him is the Security Committee, which has a chairman and a vice-chairman, who select personally the members of their committee. These are generally from seven to eleven ideologically reliable, unpaid, non-uniformed Youth Corps members. These committee members are changed frequently. They may be called on to assist the Public Security Force in cases of emergency.
9. Villages (2625) have one security officer and a security group whose duties parallel those of the security committees in the hsiang. There are usually three to four members of each group.
10. For units below village level (7162/6966) there are no security committees but only the census and registration groups described above.

Related Organizations

11. Two other organizations, the Self-Protection Units³ (5261/5898/7130) and the Border Defense Bureaus (6708/7089/1444), are not under the control of the Public Security Ministry.⁴ Liaison is not generally effected directly as much as through the agency of the local Party committees.

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50X1-HUM

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- 5 -

12. In the self-protection units, each hsiang has a major unit with a commander and a deputy. Villages have sub-units. Members are poor farmers between the ages of 16 and 30. Their numbers are not fixed. They do not wear uniforms, but frequently wear badges or arm bands reading "Self-Protection Unit." They are controlled by the hsiang arms department, which is under the ch'u arms department. The chain of command upward is then through the hsien arms department, via the military sub-district, the military district, the military area, up to the Revolutionary Military Council.

13. The border defense bureaus probably exist only in Kwangtung and Yunnan. They are army organizations, but have contact with provincial public security departments directly, and indirectly with the public security forces through local Party committees. Members sometimes wear the public security forces uniform, and sometimes the ordinary army uniform. Frequently also they wear armbands marked "Kung-an," or Public Security. They are divided into inspection posts (2914/2686/4541) and dispatch offices (3175/0427/2076).

- Inspection posts are responsible for issuing regulations relating to the carrying of illegal goods, traveling without official permit, smuggling, etc. They check exit and entry permits, and assist the authorities in the prevention of smuggling. Although one of their duties is to keep sentry-watch on the frontier, this is generally done by plain-clothes members of the Bureau who frequent hotels, guest houses, and restaurants, and stay in farmers' houses near the border.
- Dispatch offices also examine exit permits, rather more carefully than the inspection posts, questioning travelers on their ultimate destinations and intentions against information sent to them from the public security organization which issued the original permit. Moreover, they hold original blanks of exit permits issued by public security departments throughout the country, in order to be able to check the validity of travelers' documents. This latter duty is made easy by the fact that although prospective travelers abroad apply for exit permits first from their own local public security organization, nevertheless, the ultimate valid document is issued, or in some cases only stamped, by the provincial public security department.⁵

50X1-HUM

1. Comment. This system was introduced at the direction of MAO Tse-tung, when about a million political prisoners were subjected to corrective labor. Persons sentenced to three years' imprisonment or less are subject to labor such as road building and irrigation work. Persons with sentences of up to five years' imprisonment are subject to labor under the Special Administrative Area Public Security Office, and sentences in excess of the above subject political prisoners to labor under the provincial public security departments. Some prisoners have been sent to Sinkiang for agricultural development work. As a result of the above measures, very few prisoners are kept in the prison sections of the provincial public security departments.

50X1-HUM

2. Comment. there is very little need to recruit special informants because most of the reports are received from Party members and sympathizers and from officials in the various hotels and institutions.

50X1-HUM

3. Comment. These units may be identical with the People's Militia.

4. Comment. Previous reports assign the Border Defense Bureau definitely to the Public Security Ministry.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

5. Comment. In Kwangtung and Fukien, this procedure is already firmly established. The ultimate aim is probably to issue exit permits only at the provincial level, in order to centralize control.

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